

FINAL

Sussex County Contract Bridge Association

A meeting of the Tournament Committee of the SCCBA was held at 27, Bodmin Road, Worthing, BN13 3HE on Tuesday 30th June 2015 commencing at 1.30pm.

PRESENT: D Wheeler (DW - Chairman & Secretary), Mrs R Wolfarth (RW – Tournament Manager), Mrs A Galpin (AG), D Galpin (DG), M Pool (MP) and A Ryder (AR).

1. APOLOGIES – M Wotton (MW)

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The final draft minutes of the meeting held on 16 Dec 2014 were agreed as presented subject to a change to line 2 of paragraph 3.5 to make clear who was the sole YB editor.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Actions from paragraphs 3.5, 4.1, 5.2 and 6.2 had been completed.

3.1 Director Training (para 3.2)

DW reported that, in addition to the planned course to update county directors, Eddie Williams had now proposed two dates (in August) at separate locations for similar training tailored to club directors. As agreed at the MC, this would be fully subsidised and a number of clubs had already taken up the offer.

3.2 Chairman's Cup (para 6.3)

Given the effort now being invested in the youth bridge initiative, AR's plans to redesign this event as a youth event had been postponed. The event would be held (on 8 November at the Avenue BC) using the old format of Chairman's invitations.

Action: AR

3.3 Attracting more entries to tournaments (para 5.5)

Various ideas, particularly related to Basic Bridge and Venture Pairs events, had been suggested and the TC asked RW to consider these and bring forward recommendations by e-mail so that decisions could be taken when required, in advance of the next meeting. RW commented that the Surrey CBA web site provided good advertising for these types of events and her recommendations might include ideas about further development of the Sussex web site.

Action: RW

4. TOURNAMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

RW had circulated a detailed report of her activities since appointment and other TC members expressed thanks for the valuable overview of the positive and proactive approach she was taking.

4.1 Organiser Guidelines

These were now ready to issue to organisers subject to the addition of the entry form standards and advice re financial reconciliations. RW would finalise and issue as soon as possible. The TC noted the need to cover the issue with an e-mail which took account of the extensive experience of some organisers.

Action: RW

4.2 Collaboration with other counties

Further to the details contained within her report, RW said that, in order to develop further relationships with adjoining counties, she and AR planned to attend a 'café bridge' event in Guildford which involved bridge and refreshments, including lunch, at 10 café venues with four tables at each. This was in part at least designed to enable engagement with social bridge players. She had also been offered the opportunity to advertise Sussex events in the Surrey on-line newsletter and had agreed to provide a few copies of the Sussex YB to adjoining counties. She also thought it might be worth considering a joint hosting arrangement with Kent for GP events and she would bring proposals to the TC when she had reflected further.

4.3 Financial Return from Tournaments

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RW also wondered whether our tournament entry fees were set at the right level, to maximise potential surpluses, in turn to generate additional funds to invest in other initiatives. AR advised that fees were set generally with a view to maximising entry levels whilst not making losses and increases might suppress entry levels. DW commented that entry fees had been reviewed at the December 2014 TC meeting and the MC had subsequently agreed that they should remain at current levels.

5. ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

5.1 Future Sims Events

Arrangements to create a new open event (to replace the seniors' event) had now been agreed with the organiser (Peter Clinch) and this would take place at the same time as the old senior event.

5.2 Strengthening Tollemache performance

AR would be planning an expert seminar in conjunction with the Chairman of the Selectors (Julian Mitchell) and his aim would be to procure a seminar which would facilitate a real improvement in team performance.

Action: AR

5.3 Sussex JTI

Planning of this event was now well advanced and publicity would be taking place in a few days time. Timing was now agreed as the week beginning 10 August and the event would run over four days at the Avenue BC. AR would be circulating a draft flyer shortly and a press release would be issued next week. The programme of events would include non-bridge activities such as rounders on the Hove lawns and Gerry Stanford, Julian Mitchell and William Bourne had agreed to assist with delivery. An offer to Sussex Chess to participate in a joint event was not successful owing to competing priorities.

Action: AR

5.4 Entry Form Standards

These had now been agreed and would be issued to organisers shortly. The TC expressed their thanks for the time and effort devoted by MW to specifying and agreeing the standards.

5.5 IT Asset Management

DW had issued the agreed statement of responsibilities to all concerned and had advised Eddie Williams and Ron Robins of the MC's approval of the procurement of the additional *Bridgemate* equipment. He would check that the latter had now been purchased.

Action: DW

5.6 Year Book 2015/16

The YB had been issued a week or so ago and AR was happy with the end product although the entry forms for the blue point events had been printed on white (rather than blue) paper. There had been no immediate feedback thus far.

5.7 Pianola

Consideration of the potential value of this product had been deferred for some time. DW commented that Worthing BC's experience suggested that the main benefit from adoption lay in ease of control of the membership list and related links to EBU records. County arrangements for membership record management were satisfactory and the TC agreed that, in the circumstances, Pianola was not worth further pursuit.

6. COMPETITIONS (REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS)

6.1 Sussex League

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(a) DG reported that completion of the 2014/15 season was now finalised. Entries for the 2015/16 season were coming in and three new teams had already joined (from Patcham, Eastbourne and Chichester). Overall he hoped for the same number of teams as 2014/15.

(b) Jill Armstrong had raised a concern regarding unplayed matches in Division 5 and their consequences which DG had replied to. DW had suggested that League rule 9 (which referenced unplayed matches) might be strengthened to draw out more clearly the potential consequences of such and to state explicitly that the Organiser has absolute discretion to decide such matters. A revised form of words had been circulated. The TC agreed with the latter subject to the addition of an explicit statement that promotion could not be gained nor relegation avoided by not playing one or more matches. DW would construct a paper to obtain MC agreement to this change at its July meeting.

Action: DW

(c) DG indicated that he thought 2015 might be the year that he should consult team captains again over promotion and relegation following the results of the survey carried out in 2012. DW agreed to check his records on this and advise further.

Action: DW

6.2 Tournament Returns – Cost Recovery and Feedback

RW was now monitoring recovery and feedback from each event. No issues had arisen thus far.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Met Cup teams 2015

DW noted that the Chairman of Selectors had sought permission for five teams to be entered this year, an 'A' team, two 'B' teams and two 'C' teams. DG had approved this.

7.2 Henfield Candles

RW suggested that given the success of the Candles this year, the county might wish to take on the organisation in order to preserve an event that had such a long history. DG commented that this would add an event identical to the New Year Swiss Teams and he wondered whether the Candles might be adopted instead of the NYST particularly as that would remove the weather risks involved with an event held in January. Other TC members indicated that the NYST was also a relatively popular event and on balance the TC decided to accept RW's suggestion and her offer to act as the organiser for 2016. She would discuss with those concerned retention of the Henfield name for historical reasons.

Action: RW

7.3 Blue Point Events

DG reported that Eddie Williams had suggested that BP status might be acquired for the League in place of a current Congress event. DG was not persuaded of the advantages of this and TC members agreed. AG wondered whether the TC should review the current allocation of the BP 'allowance' more generally. Other events might be more advantageously accorded BP status. This would be discussed again at the next meeting.

Action: All

7.4 Encouraging early entries

RW commented that one or two events recently had been at risk of cancellation because a growing tendency towards late entries. Current policy involves the application of a 'fine' for entries on the day but otherwise there is no incentive to enter early. The TC would consider options for incentives at its next meeting.

Action: All

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 10 November 2015

2 July 2015